

14 July 69

Harold:

Even at this late stage of "the game", I have not lost the capacity to be dumbfounded by what goes on with the items of evidence that figured in the assassination.

I just got a letter from Howard Roffman containing the following statement regarding CE 399: "Marion Johnson at the Archives told me that in photographing it (399) for Six Seconds, it lost some tiny fragments from the base!" !!!

I asked Roffman to get a letter from Johnson stating that information, for I gather that Roffman got it verbally. It's incredible.

I have no idea whether the Archives kept the fragments that were lost. I am beginning to think that that bullet is not composed of lead, after all, but of smoke-- they have that much trouble holding on to it.

This, too, could be very important information for Nichols' suit. If Roffman can't get a document about it from the Archives, maybe Nichols can.

What about the photos of the base of 399 that you got, when were they made? I think the Archives photographed for Six Seconds early in 1967 (I asked Roffman to learn this). I have photos that I think was made after that time; if yours was taken before, we might get something interesting from a comparison.

I think this is good in some respects, bad in others. If the information is true, then we shall probably never be able to tell what the weight of 399 was when it reached the Archives. But it's another matter for which those bastards should be whipped.

Still,

Dick

Bernabei

cc. Schoener.

Gary:

If Joseph Nicol has photos showing the base of 399, Olson should try to get them.

Dick